

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GUIDANCE PAPER - NATO SCIENCE COMMITTEE MEETING,
LUXEMBOURG, MAY 31-JUNE 1, 1977

1. SUMMARY: THE US DELEGATE SHOULD SHOW CONTINUED STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAM. HE SHOULD INDICATE OUR INTENTION TO TAKE A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. HE MAY APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET REQUEST FOR 1978, AND SEEK CLARIFICATION ABOUT ITS PREPARATION. HE MAY SUGGEST THAT SERIOUS ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY IN THE PREPARATION OF FUTURE BUDGETS OF SHIFTING FUNDS FROM OTHER PROGRAMS INTO THE RESEARCH GRANTS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IS KEYED TO AGENDA ITEMS.

I. OPENING REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN - RESPOND AS APPROPRIATE.

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II. CANADIAN REVIEW OF NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMME

THE US REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD CONGRATULATE THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EXCELLENT AND USEFUL REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT OF THE NATO SCIENCE PROGRAMME. HE MAY ALSO ASK THE CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE FOR FURTHER ELABORATION ON THE NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP DESCRIBED IN THE REVIEW.

III. BUDGET FOR 1978.

THE BUDGET REQUEST APPEARS TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY WHAT IS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN THE PROGRAMME AT THE 1977 LEVEL. THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY ASK THE SECRETARIAT WHETHER THIS IS THE CASE, AND TO EXPLAIN ON WHAT BASIS THE DETERMINATION WAS MADE. HE SHOULD REQUEST THE SECRETARIAT TO KEEP THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS INFORMED OF THE BUDGETARY DECISION MAKING PROCESS REFERRED TO IN THE DOCUMENT AC/137-D/630, PARTICULARLY OF (A) ANY CHANGES MADE IN THE TOTAL SCIENCE BUDGET AND (B) ANY CHANGE IN THE RELATIVE POSITION OF THE SCIENCE ITEM IN THE TOTAL BUDGET.

INSOFAR AS ALLOCATIONS WITHIN THE SCIENCE BUDGET ARE CONCERNED, THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY ACCEPT THE PROPOSED DISTRIBUTION. HE SHOULD RESERVE ON ANY PROPOSAL THAT MIGHT BE ADVANCED THAT WOULD SHIFT ALLOCATIONS AWAY FROM ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES, RESEARCH GRANTS, OR PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT.

IV. TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE US REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD REFLECT THE SATISFACTION OF THE US IN THE PLANS FOR THE COMMEMORATION. THE PROGRAM LAID OUT CONFORMS CLOSELY TO THE GUIDELINES APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE, AND PROVIDES AN EFFECTIVE SUMMARIZATION OF THE ROLE OF THE SCIENCE PROGRAM IN THE NATO ALLIANCE.

THE PROGRAM OF SPEECHES AND SPECIAL PAPERS WILL REQUIRE UNCLASSIFIED

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A LARGE NUMBER OF DISTINGUISHED SCIENTISTS FROM ALL REALMS OF SCIENCE. WE ARE AWARE THAT THE SECRETARIAT HAS CONTACTED NUMEROUS AMERICANS AND HAS OBTAINED COMMITMENTS FROM A FEW. WE BELIEVE THAT MOST EVERYONE IN THE AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY WOULD FEEL HONORED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM. HOWEVER, UNLESS A DEFINITE TIME AND PLACE ARE FIXED SOON, WE MAY FIND NUMEROUS MEN AND WOMEN ALREADY COMMITTED. SIMILARLY, THE US EXPECTS THAT A SIZABLE NUMBER OF OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WILL WANT TO RESPOND TO OUR INVITATION TO THE COMMEMORATION - IF THEY ARE NOT ALREADY COMMITTED.

THUS, THE US REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD PRESS FOR A DEFINITE TIME AND PLACE TO BE ESTABLISHED FOR THE COMMEMORATION. HE SHOULD INFORM THE COMMITTEE THAT HE IS INSTRUCTED TO URGE THE COMMITTEE AND THE SECRETARIAT TO DECIDE THESE TWO MATTERS DURING THE PRESENT MEETING, IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE. HE SHOULD ALSO SEEK COMMITTEE UNDER-

STANDING ON THE NUMBER OF SCIENTIST WHO MAY BE INVITED.

V. RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME.

AT HIS DISCRETION THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY DRAW UPON THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS.

THE PANEL ON RESEARCH GRANTS IS DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB IN SCREENING RESEARCH PROPOSALS AND DETERMINING AWARDS TO THE MOST MERITORIOUS. THE PROGRAM ITSELF HAS AN OUTSTANDING RECORD, AND THE COMMITTEE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO RETAIN THE HIGH QUALITY OF THE PROGRAMME, WHICH PERHAPS MORE THAN ANY OTHER CONTRIBUTES TO SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATION WITHIN THE ALLIANCE.

THE PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS IS COMPLICATED BY THE STRINGENT BUDGETARY SITUATION AT A UNCLASSIFIED

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TIME WHEN THE NUMBER OF JUSTIFIABLE APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS IS RAPIDLY INCREASING. PROGRAM ADJUSTMENTS IN TERMS OF PARTIAL FINANCING, RESTRICTIONS ON RESEARCH EXTENSIONS, AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE ECONOMIES CANNOT BE CARRIED SIGNIFICANTLY FURTHER WITHOUT UNDERMINING THE BASIC CONCEPT OF THE PROGRAMME. AS THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE SCIENCE COMMITTEE IS NOT LIKELY TO RISE IN REAL TERMS IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE, THE COMMITTEE IS FACED WITH A BASIC DILEMMA; (A) IT COULD REJECT AN INCREASING PROPORTION OF APPLICATIONS, OR (B) IT COULD REALLOCATE FUNDS FROM ANOTHER PROGRAMME TO ACCOMMODATE THE INCREASING NUMBER OF WORTHWHILE RESEARCH PROPOSALS.

THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY PROPOSE THAT THE COMMITTEE CONFRONT THIS ISSUE PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF THE 1979 BUDGET REQUEST. HE MAY REQUEST THAT THE QUESTION BE PLACED ON THE AGENDA OF THE FEBRUARY 1978 COMMITTEE MEETING, AND THAT THE SECRETARIAT PREPARE APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL DATA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR CONSIDERING THE DECISION.

VI. ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTES PROGRAMME.

THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY RESPOND AS APPROPRIATE TO THE ORAL PRESENTATION.

VII. SPECIAL PROGRAMME PANELS.

THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY COMMENT AS APPROPRIATE ON THE ORAL PRESENTATIONS OF THE WORK OF THE SIX PANELS.

VIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

NO COMMENT.

IX. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS.

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THE DATES PROPOSED FOR THE NEXT TWO MEETINGS ARE
SATISFACTORY. THE US REPRESENTATIVE MAY INQUIRE ABOUT
PLANS FOR THE OTHER MEETINGS FOR 1978, AND THEIR
SYNCHRONIZATION WITH THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION.
IT WOULD SEEM ADVISABLE TO SCHEDULE THE COMMITTEE
MEETINGS SO THAT ONE WOULD COINCIDE WITH, OR FOLLOW
IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION. VANCE

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